

Appl. No. 10/811,527
Docket No. 8768MD2
Amdt. dated April 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action mailed on December 21, 2006
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article, said absorbent article comprising an elastic component, said elastic component comprising a first substrate having an printed elastomeric composition ~~disposed thereon~~ applied in a predetermined geometric pattern, said pattern comprising at least two differing individual ~~elements~~ elastomeric members selected from the group consisting of rectilinear stripes, curvilinear stripes, ~~spirals, dots, geometric figures~~ triangles, trapezoids, squares, parallelograms, polygons, ellipses, circles and combinations thereof, and such that said elastomeric composition partially penetrates said first substrate, wherein said at least two differing individual elastomeric members are parallel or non-parallel with respect to each another and wherein said elastomeric members have a width dimension of at least about 2.0 mm.
2. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component has a percent set less than about 20%.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component is selected from the group consisting of a topsheet, a backsheet, an outer cover, an ear, a side panel, a waist member, a leg elastomeric member, a chassis member, a fastener, a fastener with slot and tab and combinations thereof.
6. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said predetermined geometric pattern is selected from the group consisting of continuous patterns and intermittent patterns.

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7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said ~~element has~~ elastomeric members have a thickness dimension of at least about 0.1 mm.
10. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said pattern has a spacing between said ~~elements~~ elastomeric members and said spacing is selected from the group consisting of uniform spacing and non-uniform spacing.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said ~~differing individual elements~~ elastomeric members differ in a property selected from the group consisting of differing width dimensions between said ~~individual elements~~ elastomeric members, differing thickness dimensions between said ~~individual elements~~ elastomeric members, differing spacing between said ~~individual elements~~ elastomeric members, differing mechanical properties between said ~~individual elements~~ elastomeric members, and differing visual appearance and differing permeability between said ~~individual elements~~ elastomeric members.
13. (Currently amended) A absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said differing ~~individual elements~~ elastomeric members are spaced apart, adjacent to or at least partially overlap each other.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 5 wherein said elastic component comprises at least one additional elastomeric composition disposed on said substrate.
16. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 15 wherein said elastic component comprises first and second elastomeric compositions and said second

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composition is disposed on said substrate in a pattern different than said first composition.

17. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 5 wherein said article comprises at least two differing elastic components.
18. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 17 wherein elastomeric composition is disposed on at least one of said differing elastic components in a pattern that differs from the other of said components.
19. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 17 wherein a different elastomeric composition is disposed on at least one of said differing elastic components.
20. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 5 wherein said elastic component comprises an ear or a side panel, said ear or said side panel and said pattern comprises at least two differing ~~elements~~ elastomeric members.
21. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 20 wherein at ~~said~~ least two of said differing ~~elements~~ elastomeric members are disposed at an angle with respect to each other.
22. (Currently amended) An absorbent article according to Claim 20 wherein said two differing ~~elements~~ elastomeric members differ in elastic properties.
23. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of nonwoven fibrous webs and woven fibrous webs.
24. (Currently amended) An absorbent ~~composite~~ article according to Claim 23 wherein said fibers comprise a polyolefin material.
25. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component has been incrementally stretched.
26. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastic component further comprises a second substrate joined to said first substrate to

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form a laminate, wherein said elastomeric composition is disposed between said first and second substrates.

27. (Original) An absorbent article according to Claim 26 wherein said second substrate comprises a film.
28. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said printing method is selected from the group consisting of gravure, offset gravure, intaglio, flexographic and ink jet.
29. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 wherein said elastomeric member has a melt viscosity of from about 1 to about 150 Pa-s, measured at 175 °C and 1 s⁻¹ and an elasticity of at least about 50 N/m.
30. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 6 wherein the thickness of at least one of the elastomeric members varies from one part of the member to another.
31. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 30 wherein the thickness varies discretely, continuously or a combination thereof.
32. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 1 further comprising a plurality of first elastomeric members that are parallel to one another and a plurality of second elastomeric members that are parallel to one another, wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members are non-parallel with respect to each other.
33. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 32 wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members differ in a property selected from the group consisting of differing width dimensions between said first and second elastomeric members, differing thickness dimensions between said first and second elastomeric members, differing visual appearance between said first and second elastomeric members and differing elastomeric composition between said first and second elastomeric members.

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34. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 32 wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members are perpendicular with respect to each other.
35. (New) An absorbent article according to Claim 31 wherein the plurality of first elastomeric members and the plurality of second elastomeric members are applied in a single step continuous process.